Application No.: 09/437,726

Page 3

in such technology components as hardware and process design/engineering, biomass separation and drying, as well as in-depth insights into many other related technical problems (managing weed species, maintenance continuous year around cultivation). Sources describing cyanofarming include: Microalgae of Economic Potential by A. Richmond in CRC Handbook of Microalgal Mass Culture, 1986, CRC Press, Boca Raton, Florida; Microalgae: Organic Factories of the Future. Cyanotech Corp. 1998. and other information from Cyanotech; Spirulina: Environmental Advantages; Earthrise Farms, California; Jeeji Bai N (Poster Abstract, 1995) "Decentralized Arthrospira ("Spirulina") culture facility for income generation in rural areas" 1992 data. Shrii A.M.M Mudragappa Chettiar Research Centre, Tharamani, Madras 600113, India; Alkalophilic cyanobacteria: digests of Curds et al, 1986 and Finlay et al, 1987; Spirulina - Production and Potential by Ripley D. Fox 1996. Pub. by Editions Edisud, La Calade, R.N.7 !3090 Aix-en-provice, France.--

haioit

## IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 149 and 20. Please insert claims 27-37 as follows.

SADO

27. A method for obtaining a polynucleotide comprising a sequence encoding a protein having Rubisco carboxylation activity, the method comprising:

recombining a plurality of parental polynucleotide species encoding at least one protein having Rubisco carboxylation activity under conditions suitable for sequence shuffling to form a resultant library of sequence-shuffled polynucleotides;

transferring said library into a plurality of host cells, thereby forming a library of transformants wherein sequence-shuffled Rubisco polynucleotides are expressed; and

identifying at least one transformant from the library that expresses a protein having a Rubisco carboxylation activity that is significantly enhanced relative to the Rubisco carboxylation activity of proteins encoded by the plurality of parental

Application No.: 09/437,726

Page 4

Sub 03

polynucleotide species, wherein the identified transformant contains a polynucleotide comprising a sequence encoding the protein having an enhanced Rubisco carboxylation activity, thereby obtaining a polynucleotide comprising a sequence encoding the protein having an enhanced Rubisco carboxylation activity.

Sul. 7

- 28. The polynucleotide of claim 27, wherein the encoded protein having an enhanced Rubisco carboxylation activity has a higher carboxylation specificity factor than proteins encoded by the plurality of polynucleotide species.
- 29. The polynucleotide of claim 27, wherein the encoded protein having an enhanced Rubisco carboxylation activity has a velocity of carboxylation that is greater than that of proteins encoded by the plurality of polynucleotide species.
- 30. The polynucleotide of claim 27, wherein the encoded protein having an enhanced Rubisco carboxylation activity has a velocity of oxygenation that is less than that of proteins encoded by the plurality of polynucleotide species.
- 31. The polynucleotide of claim 27, wherein the encoded protein having an enhanced Rubisco carboxylation activity has a Km for CO<sub>2</sub> that is less than that of proteins encoded by the plurality of polynucleotide species.
- 32. The polynucleotide of claim 27, wherein the encoded protein having an enhanced Rubisco carboxylation activity has a Km for O<sub>2</sub> that is greater than that of proteins encoded by the plurality of polynucleotide species.
- 33. The polynucleotide of claim 27, wherein the plurality of parental polynucleotide species encodes at least one Rubisco Form I L subunit.
- 34. The polynucleotide of claim 27, wherein the plurality of parental polynucleotide species encodes at least one Rubisco Form I S subunit.

hyd